

Purpose and Responsibilities

GTA's purpose and responsibilities are to

- set the direction for the state's use of technology,
- obtain greater value for our technology dollars by implementing shared solutions to common needs,
- promote economic development through an advanced telecommunications network,
- operate the state's data center,
- ensure greater security to prevent unauthorized access and use of state databases,
- make it easier for state agencies to share information,
- encourage business on the Internet, and
- develop a statewide information technology plan.

Overseeing Technology Procurement

State law makes GTA responsible for the acquisition of all state IT equipment and software. This includes the lease, purchase or other acquisition of all technology-related supplies, services and equipment needed by state agencies. GTA is also responsible for establishing the procedures for purchasing, licensing or leasing technology resources. GTA also reviews state agency expenditure reports. Agencies spend hundreds of millions annually on technology.

Overseeing technology procurement for the state enables GTA to

- combine the purchasing power of all agencies to obtain the best value at the lowest cost,
- avoid unnecessary expenditures, and
- ensure proposed expenditures support state agency programs and constituent needs.

Reviewing Technology Projects

State law allows GTA to review IT system development, enhancement or modification. Among the exemptions from review are educational equipment, emergency repairs, replacement of broken equipment and computers for new employees or instructional purposes.

These reviews often require careful consideration because of their complexity. GTA looks for ways to promote the sharing of resources and identifying common needs among agencies to improve efficiency and reduce operating costs.

Managing Large Technology Projects

State law requires GTA to oversee the management of technology projects costing \$1 million or more. About three quarters of technology projects fail because of insufficient project management.

GTA provides oversight to prevent project failures and cost overruns. Successful projects include online and mail-in driver's license renewal; electronic voting; upgrades to a tax payment processing system that handles \$8 billion in annual revenue; and conversion of paper records to an electronic database for the Teachers Retirement System.

Developing Technology Policies and Standards

State law makes GTA responsible for establishing statewide architecture and setting technology policies and standards, including security standards.